

1-22 (canceled)

23. (new) A telephone answering device, comprising:

a digital answering machine;

a wireless piconet front end; and

a monitoring module to determine a presence of a monitored person within a monitored area, said monitoring module determining a presence of a user of said telephone answering device when a piconet device uniquely associated with said user is present in a piconet including said wireless piconet front end of said telephone answering device;

wherein said telephone answering device automatically answers an incoming call when said monitoring module determines that said user is not present, and allows additional rings when said user is present.

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24. (new) The telephone answering device according to claim 23, further comprising:

a wireless piconet entrance/exit monitor in communication with said telephone answering device determining a presence of said user based on a physical movement of a personal wireless piconet identifying device worn by said user.

25. (new) A method of automatically answering a telephone call, comprising:

searching for a presence of a user of a telephone answering device via a piconet communications device associated with said user's presence;

automatically answering said telephone call if said user is not presence; and

allowing said telephone call to continue to ring if said user is present as determined by a presence of said piconet communications device associated with said user's presence.

26. (new) The method of automatically answering a telephone call according to claim 25, further comprising:

implementing said piconet communications device with jewelry worn by said user.

27. (new) The method of automatically answering a telephone call according to claim 25, further comprising:

implementing said piconet communications device with a wallet or purse of said user.

A / 28. (new) Apparatus for automatically answering a telephone call, comprising:

means for searching for a presence of a user of a telephone answering device via a piconet communications device associated with said user's presence;

means for automatically answering said telephone call if said user is not presence; and

means for allowing said telephone call to continue to ring if said user is present as determined by a presence of said piconet communications device associated with said user's presence.

29. (new) The apparatus for automatically answering a telephone call according to claim 28, further comprising:

means for implementing said piconet communications device with jewelry worn by said user.

30. (new) The method of automatically answering a telephone call according to claim 28, further comprising:

means for implementing said piconet communications device with a wallet or purse of said user.